



Sayings from the Cross 1

They say the _____ words a person speaks are important. Today, we're focusing on the words of Jesus Christ while He was on the _____. God declared about the Lord Jesus, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well _____. Listen to Him!" (Matthew 17:5). We need to _____ to Him if we want to know God's will. If we wish to please, to respect, and to obey Him, we first must _____ and pay attention to what He says. Loving the Lord means carefully listening to Him. That's why His words _____ so much to us.

Someone has remarked that what people say at the close of their lives _____ their minds, their hearts, and their character. We're going to look at the words Jesus _____, and whenever His burdens, His agony, and His sacrifice were at the most visible and difficult point. We're focusing on His words as He was being crucified and hanging upon the _____. While Jesus lingered there, just being able to _____ would have been exceptionally difficult. He suffered more severely than we can imagine. Just to speak would have required a lot of _____. If Jesus worked that hard to speak, what He had to say must be important! How important are the words of Jesus to you?

Hearing what Jesus has to say is important. He speaks the words of _____ life. His words come from the Father, and they _____ us of the Father's love and the Father's will for our lives. Jesus, quoting Deuteronomy 8:3, said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds from the _____ of God'" (Matthew 4:4). If the words of Christ gave us life itself, shouldn't we pay close attention? Are you listening to Jesus?

Our reading today comes from Isaiah 53:4-6.

Crucifixion was the most painful and cruel _____ of ancient times. It was designed to make the _____ last as long as possible. As they were nailing Jesus to the cross we have His first saying. The Lord Jesus prayed, "Father, _____ them; for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

We find it _____ to forgive when someone has intentionally and maliciously hurt us. It's easier to become angry and vengeful, but that's _____ to God's teaching on forgiveness. Someone hurts us, and some _____ we can't forgive or forget. Of course, anger only hurts us and keeps the _____ open. People tend to nurture a grudge, but Jesus didn't. That's why we need to _____ to Jesus pray, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they do." These familiar words reveal a stunning and an amazing _____. If we grasp the wonder of this first word from the cross, it will _____ us to forgive others.

Jesus could have prayed, "Father, punish them! Father, destroy them!" He could have called for legions of _____ to deliver Him and strike down His enemies. We could pray, "Father, hurt them like they've hurt me!" First Peter 2:23 says about Jesus: "while being reviled, He didn't revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept _____ Himself to Him who judges righteously." Our Lord prayed from a heart of _____, "Father, forgive them." What an _____ for us to follow! Forgiveness and reconciliation are what the _____ is all about. Forgiving others is much less difficult when we _____ how much the Lord has forgiven us. Ephesians 4:31-32

Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.

May be reproduced in its entirety for purposes of classroom material or personal study.

PO Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 1-800-321-8633

This study sheet is prepared by Jerry Campbell – www.searchtv.org

says, “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

The second time Jesus spoke takes a little time to examine the context. Luke 23:35-43 says, “And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were _____ at Him, saying, ‘He saved others; let Him _____ Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One.’ The soldiers also _____ Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, and saying, ‘If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!’ There was also an inscription above Him, ‘This is the king of the Jews.’”

“And one of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling _____ at Him, saying, ‘Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!’ But the other answered, and rebuking him said, ‘Do you not even _____ God, since you’re under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed are suffering justly, for we’re receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done _____ wrong.’ And he was saying, ‘Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!’ And He said to him, ‘Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in _____.’”

Jesus _____ the sneering of the Jews and the mocking of the soldiers. One of the criminals also jeered at Christ to save Him, but the other criminal rebuked him, and he remarked that Jesus was innocent and asked Him to “remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” Jesus replied, “Truly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” Jesus said they both would that very _____ be in Paradise. In Revelation 2:7 Jesus promises, “To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.” Paradise refers to the _____ where righteous souls go when this life is over.

Many point to the salvation of this thief on the cross and think salvation _____ comes just like it did to that thief. This, however, is a special situation and ignores many relevant _____. The thief lived under the first covenant _____ the blood and death of Jesus ratified the new covenant, under which we live today. During His ministry on earth, Jesus could and did save people any way He desired; but we today find our salvation by hearing the _____ of the gospel. First Corinthians 1:21 says, “For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message _____ to save those who believe.” Romans 1:16 says the “gospel is the _____ of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” The question is not what Jesus told the thief on the cross; the question is what will Jesus say to us about our salvation!

When people today hear and believe the gospel of Christ, they repent of their sins, confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and they are baptized into Christ. The gospel is the good _____ of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus said, “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you _____ that I am He (that is, the Son of God), you will die in your sins” (John 8:24). We are saved by faith but not by faith _____. The Lord Jesus also said, “unless you _____, you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). Paul told the Athenian philosophers, “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will _____ the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31). It takes faith to repent, but someone who says he believes but will not repent cannot be saved.

With faith and repentance, the person who _____ the Lord because of what Jesus did on the cross will want to confess his faith in Jesus Christ and be baptized into Christ. Before baptism, we're outside of Christ and His _____; but when we're baptized into Christ, we put on Christ (Galatians 3:27). Romans 6:3 says, "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His _____?" Our baptism in water today takes us to the cross, to the death of Christ, and we are baptized into Christ.

Paul explains how baptism sets us _____ from sin and unites us with Christ. Romans 6:4-7 says, "Therefore we've been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the _____ of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we've become _____ with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is _____ from sin."

Baptism in water buries us with Christ and raises us up with Christ, so that we can walk in _____ of life. The old self was crucified with Christ so that our sins could be done away with and we could be _____ from the guilt and the punishment of sin. When we are crucified with Christ, that's when the _____ washes that sin away. In Baptism, the blood washes away sin because we're crucified with Christ. Peter tells us of another benefit: "Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an _____ to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:2). When we're baptized, we are _____. Baptism is the time that we appeal or inquire to God for a good conscience; and when we are raised up with Christ to a new life and born again, we have that conscience that says that we're set _____ from that old life and have a _____ beginning. The Bible says, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a _____ creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Because through baptism into Christ and into His death, God puts us in Christ, and He saves us, and makes us new creatures, and then we have a _____ of entering Paradise when this physical life is over. Like Lazarus, who went to Abraham's bosom in Luke 16, faithful Christians have the _____ of a blessing when this life is over. Jesus promised the thief, "You will be with Me," and we are going to be with the Lord when we _____. Some people ask, "Will we go to be with Jesus when we die?" The Scriptures answer this question, "Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the _____ we are absent from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight—we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at _____ with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:6-8). When our bodies die, our spirits go to be at home with the Lord.

Philippians 1:21-24 says, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful _____ for me; and I don't know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart (that is, to die) and be with Christ, for that is very much _____; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake." Paul believed that departing from this life and being "with Christ" to be far better than living in the flesh. He had confidence that when he died, he would be "with Christ." Do you have confidence?

Life is very uncertain; we have _____ guarantees we'll live to a ripe old age. We may not have plenty of time to _____ our lives to the saving of our souls. James 4:14 says, "You do not know what your _____ will be like tomorrow. You're just a _____ that appears for a little while and then vanishes away." If you were to depart today, would you go to be with Christ? Would you hear the

Lord say, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise”? If you’re not sure about your relationship with the Lord and your salvation, oh take the necessary steps that God requires.

God’s grace is open to every person who will lovingly and humbly come to Him in faith and willing to _____ Him. Psalm 51:17 says, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not _____.” When you see how a sinful way of life will cause you to be lost, and you _____ repent of your sins and turn your heart toward the will of God, it can make a difference. The person who wants to be saved doesn’t _____ with God. His heart is ready to _____ to whatever the Lord asks of Him. He’s happy! He wants to _____ the Lord.

He’s happy to _____ himself, to take up his cross daily and follow the Lord. He’s happy to _____ Jesus Christ as the Son of God and be _____ into Christ for the forgiveness of his sins. He wants his sins to be washed away, so like Saul of Tarsus he doesn’t _____ but is baptized right then (Acts 22:16). The three thousand on the day of Pentecost were baptized that very _____. The Eunuch saw water and was baptized right _____ (Acts 8:36-39). The Philippian jailer and his family were baptized in the middle of the night in Acts 16. The twelve disciples of John in Acts 19 were baptized into Christ immediately Why did they act so urgently? They acted because they _____ the Lord and wanted to be right with Him! Will you?

Living in the grace and favor of God, being saved from sin and its consequences, is the most necessary _____ in your life. You can possess the _____; but if you don’t have the favor of God, you have no _____ of eternal life with the Lord Jesus. A future without God is terrible. The way God has determined for you to have _____ life comes by His grace and through faith. You must believe in the Lord Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. The basis for this faith comes in the message of the _____. Paul wrote, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the _____ of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16). To be saved, you must believe in Jesus and in the gospel.

Having godly _____ won’t save you, if you refuse to come to Christ. Belonging to a _____ won’t save you, if you live a worldly life. You must one day _____ the Lord Jesus, on your own. Second Corinthians 5:10 says, “For we must _____ appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” The Jesus who died on the cross will come again to judge the world in righteousness. Are you prepared to meet God? If you love the Lord and believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, repent of your sins. Give them up and start living for the Lord. Confess your faith, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And then God washes away sin when we’re baptized into Christ and He adds us to His church. So respond today.